

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
October 4, 2010

The City Council of the City of Burlington held a regularly scheduled work session at the John Robert Kernodle Senior Activity Center, 1535 South Mebane Street, Burlington, N.C., on October 4, 2010, at 7 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Ronnie K. Wall, Mayor Pro Tem David Huffman, Councilmembers James Butler, Stephen M. Ross and Celo Faucette

Councilmembers absent: None

Harold Owen, City Manager, present

Robert M. Ward, City Attorney, present

Jondeen D. Terry, City Clerk, present

Other Staff Present: Peggy Reece, Bob Harkrader, Nolan Kirkman, Bob Patterson, Mike Williams, Staff Sgt. Brian Becmer, Captain Chris Verdeck, Tony Laws, Lisa Wolff, and John Nixon.

Others Present: Kelly May and Janice Burgess, New Leaf Society, Richard Parker and Tom Jamison.

Media Present: None

A) New Leaf Project Report

City Manager Harold Owen introduced Ms. Kelly May and Ms. Janice Burgess, New Leaf Society site selection committee.

Public Works Director Nolan Kirkman said that Harold Owen serves on the Board of Directors and that Jeff Parsons, Daniel Shoffner and himself serve on the technical committee. Mr. Kirkman said that New Leaf started in 2007 and operates primarily from donations. He reviewed New Leaf projects as follows:

Completed Projects

- University Drive corridor from Highway 70 to Huffman Mill Road - median plantings.
- Grand Oaks Boulevard between Huffman Mill Road and Kirkpatrick Road - median plantings.
- Highland Elementary School - trees on campus road.

- Rockwood Avenue from Front Street to US70 - median plantings.
- US70 near Tarleton - median plantings.
- US70 near Country Club Drive - median plantings.
- Bailey Fountain and landscaping at Main and US70.
- Landscaping around Sister Cities fountain at City Park.
- Webb Avenue between Church Street and Fisher Street - trees on railroad property.
- Robinson Park on Rauhut Street - trees.

#### Future Projects

- Exit 140 Interchange - southwest quadrant - wall and lighting.
- Grand Oaks Boulevard from Kirkpatrick to Alamance Road - median plantings.
- Mebane Street from Huffman Mill Road to NC54 - median plantings.
- Rockwood Avenue near Arbor Drive - color-scaping.
- Downtown Burlington - plants/bushes for planters, gathering areas and green spaces.
- North Church Street and Fisher Street island - median plantings.
- North Church Street and McKinney Street - right-of-way plantings.

Mr. Kirkman said there were maintenance implications for the City of Burlington. He pointed out that the City had been receiving benefits from the projects but that as of June 2011, City staff will begin taking over maintenance of the plantings at University Drive and Grand Oaks. He said staff plans to do pruning in-house but that the mulching will have to be contracted out. He estimated the mulching on completed New Leaf projects to cost about \$6,000 to \$9,000 per year.

He said there is an existing contract to mow University Drive and that DOT offers some reimbursement. He indicated that the City pays about \$17,000 per year for mowing University Drive, Grand Oaks Boulevard, Boone Station Drive, and a few smaller areas.

Mr. Kirkman indicated that the completed projects added about 335 trees which equates to about 1/5 of a laborer's wages to maintain. He also indicated that the downtown plantings would be maintained by a part-time maintenance worker.

Councilmember Butler asked about the ramifications of an accident destroying the landscaping, and Mr. Kirkman said that the driver should have insurance. Mr. Kirkman said that a drought situation would be the greatest risk. Councilmember Butler commented that the City needs to keep the same caliber of landscaping along University Drive.

City Manager Owen commented that staff gets many favorable comments on O'Neal-Rockwood and University Drive and that the landscaping was a nice addition to the City.

Mayor Wall thanked Ms. Burgess and Ms. May for their work and for attending the work session.

**B) Special Operations Investigation Report**

Police Chief Mike Williams and Staff Sgt. Brian Becmer reviewed a recent investigation that started with a tip from someone in a City neighborhood. The neighbor called in a tip and the experienced officers realized that it should be pursued. Staff Sgt. Becmer reviewed the case step-by-step that eventually resulted in the seizure of \$249,700 in currency. The purpose of the review was to give Council a sense of what the officers do on a daily basis and to show the amount of time and manpower that is involved in each case.

**C) Recreation and Parks Master Plan Report**

Tony Laws and Lisa Wolff reported that the present Master Plan covers 1995-2010. They stated that Woolpert, Inc. worked with staff to develop the plan and that Woolpert was a big firm that had an excellent staff. They said preparation for the Master Plan included gathering background information and holding public meetings. They pointed out that most of what was in the current plan has been completed and that it was time to lay the groundwork for what needs to be done in the next ten years. They stated that Woolpert could do a 10-year extension of the plan. They explained that with the City's current technology, a lot of the work could be done in-house and Andrew Shore, GIS, could help with the mapping. They reiterated that staff would do much of the work and would attempt to keep the cost of the Master Plan to below \$30,000.

Ms. Wolff said that during the ten-year period there were other additions such as the Paramount Theatre and the bond referendum to build the Senior Center. Ms. Wolff said there had been discussion about a facility south of the interstate. She pointed out that most of the larger facilities are to the east.

Councilmember Butler asked how long a study would take and Mr. Laws said it would take at least six months depending on the amount of public input that was received.

Councilmember Butler agreed that it was time to develop a new Master Plan.

Ms. Wolff mentioned that she had heard about a new concept in which recreation centers were opened in leased facilities in commercial and retail space.

City Manager Owen asked if there was any interest in extending the Master Plan, and Councilmember Butler said that staff had done a wonderful job creating world-class recreational facilities. He reiterated that the time was right.

Mr. Owen said that Mr. Mark Jones, Parks and Recreation Commission member, had said he would talk with the Parks and Recreation Commission about requesting that the City receive part of the Alamance County occupancy tax.

Mr. Laws said the local Tourism Development Authority gets two-thirds of the occupancy tax revenue which is used to fund the operation of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Sports Development Council and that Alamance County received the other third. Mr. Laws said the distribution was set by the legislature and was to be used for tourism development programs and facilities.

#### D) Committee Reports

Councilmember Butler:

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) met September 15, 2010. The committee requested ideas for planning projects. It was decided the City would submit for consideration the following projects:

- Burlington Pedestrian Plan
- Tucker Street Interchange
- South Church Street at St. Mark's Church Road Intersection

The TAC approved a Resolution of Support for PART to apply for a grant that deals with regional livability and sustainability.

Next TAC meeting is October 19, 2010.

Alamance County Transportation Authority (ACTA) met recently. Nothing major, everything on auto pilot. ACTA has renewed all state contracts for funding. Last year ACTA had 78,886 trips.

Councilmember Butler asked if anyone had talked about federal funding and how that money comes back to the county. He commented that the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments (PTCOG) brought about one million dollars to the county.

Mayor Wall:

Mayor Wall mentioned that Council would be required to vote concerning the merger of the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments (PTCOG) and the Northwest Council of Governments. He said the PTCOG may vote at the next executive board meeting. Mayor Wall said that the manager may have a better idea than elected officials of what the PTCOG does.

City Manager Owen said the makeup of the board would be important.

Mayor Wall said that Burlington will have an elected official at all meetings.

E) Questions Concerning City Council Agenda

There were no questions concerning the agenda.

F) City Manager Comments

City Manager Owen talked with Council about recommending that Trick or treating be held on Saturday, October 30, 2010, since Halloween falls on Sunday.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

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Jondeen D. Terry, City Clerk